

CHANGES TO LICENCE CLASSES FOR: PASSIVE FIRE PROTECTION

NEW FIRE PROTECTION LICENSING FRAMEWORK – 2021

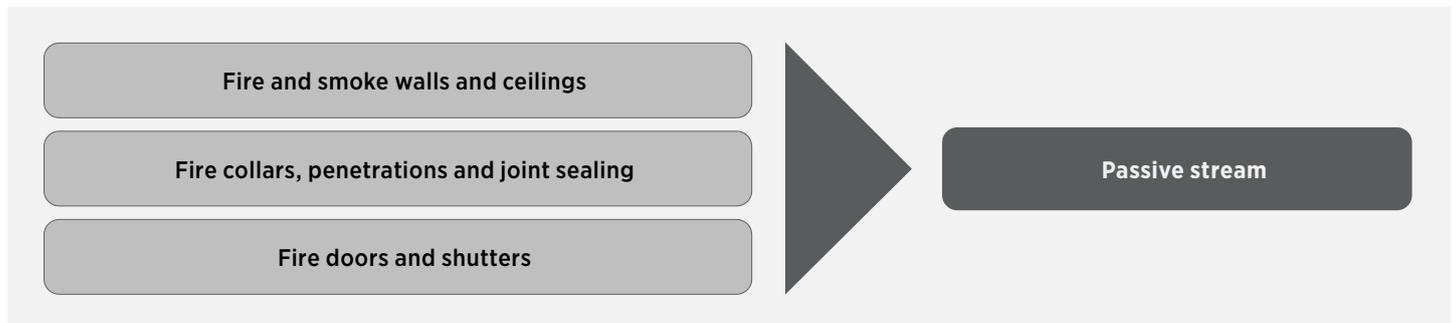
CHANGES TO FIRE PROTECTION WORK

From **1 May 2021**, the definition of fire protection work has been expanded to include the installation and maintenance of fire and smoke walls, fire collars, fire-rated penetrations and fire-rated joint sealings.

This means that all persons carrying out this work will require a licence regardless of the value of the work. To assist industry transition to the new licensing framework, existing workers who perform this work for a licensed contractor, will have until **1 May 2025** to apply for a licence.

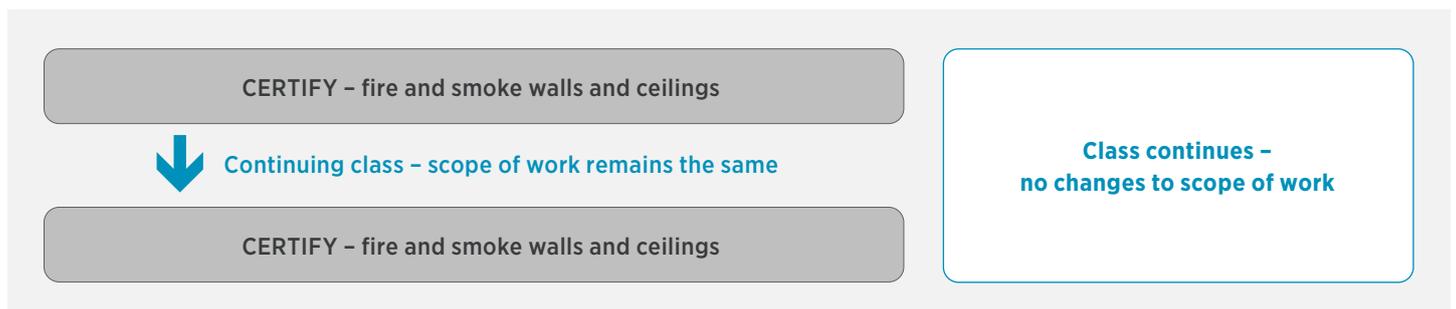
CHANGES TO EXISTING LICENCE CLASSES

Under the new fire protection licensing framework commencing on **1 May 2021**, the following licence classes will transition to the new passive stream:



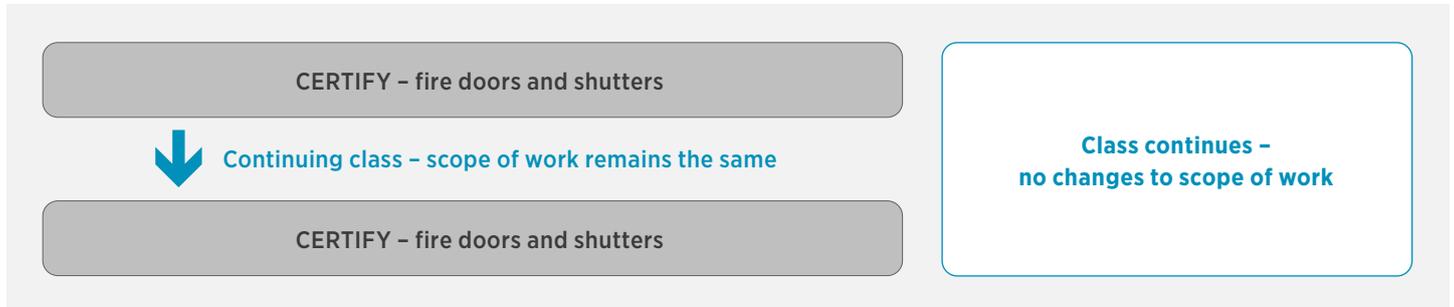
CONTINUING CLASSES – CERTIFY – FIRE AND SMOKE WALLS AND CEILINGS

The existing 'certify' class for fire and smoke walls and ceilings will become a continuing class of licence from 1 May 2021. This means that existing licensees may continue to hold, renew and carry out the scope of work under their current licence. The licence class will no longer be available for issue or restoration.



CONTINUING CLASSES – CERTIFY – FIRE DOORS AND FIRE SHUTTERS

The existing 'certify' class for fire doors and fire shutters will become a continuing class of licence from 1 May 2021. This means that existing licensees may continue to hold, renew and carry out the scope of work under their current licence. The licence class will no longer be available for issue or restoration.



NEW LICENCE – CERTIFY

A new 'certify' class will be added to the passive stream, with the scope of work covering:

- fire doors
- fire shutters
- fire dampers
- fire collars
- fire-rated penetrations
- fire-rated joint sealings
- fire and smoke walls
- fire-rated ceilings.

From 1 May 2021 the new 'certify' classes will not include work to test fire protection equipment.

Accordingly, 'certify' licensees seeking to test fire protection equipment must also hold the relevant class for 'inspect and test' work by stream (which may be an 'install and maintain' class).

In addition, from 1 May 2021, the 'certify' class in the relevant stream must be held to issue a certificate or statement following an inspection. This includes issuing aspect certificates under the *Building Act 1975*, and certificates following annual surveys. An additional licence class for inspect and test work is required for any test work required to support the issuing of the relevant certificate or statement.

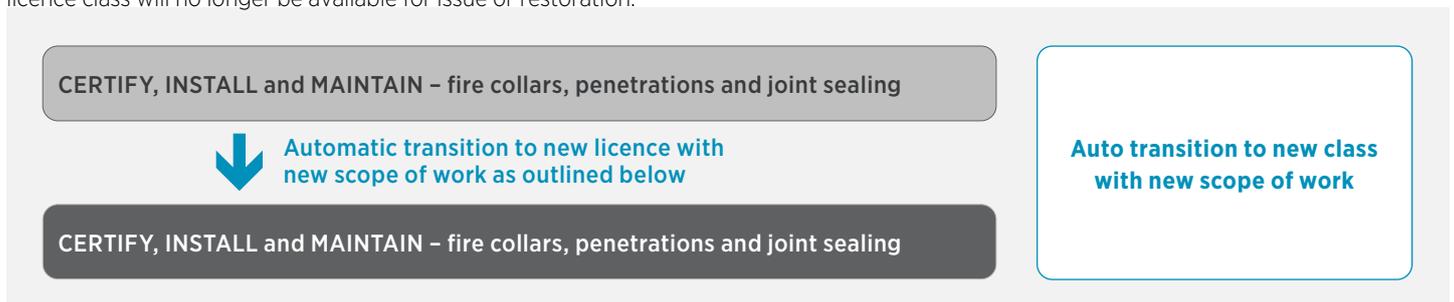
For the passive stream, inspect and test work may be performed under an 'inspect and test' licence class or an 'install and maintain' licence class to the extent it covers the system for which the work relates. The additional class (that is, 'inspect and test' or 'install and maintain') will be required to perform any necessary test work associated with maintenance obligations under the Building Fire Safety Regulation 2008, and the certify class (that is 'certify') will be required to issue any required certificate or statement required by that Regulation.

A QBCC licensed person holding an 'inspect and test' or 'install and maintain' licence class may be eligible (subject to assessment by a building certifier of the person's competency) to be appointed as a competent person to provide inspection help (Form 16 – Inspection Certificate) under the *Building Act 1975*. These licensees can complete logbooks or other records of the results of their inspection and testing, but cannot issue certificates or statements, including a yearly condition report, without the relevant 'certify' licence class.

For more information, see the [changes to certify licence classes web page](#).

CONTINUING CLASSES – CERTIFY, INSTALL AND MAINTAIN – FIRE COLLARS, PENETRATIONS AND JOINT SEALING

The existing 'certify, install and maintain' class for fire collars, penetrations and joint sealing will become a continuing class of licence from 1 May 2021. This means that existing licensees may continue to hold, renew and carry out the scope of work under their current licence. The licence class will no longer be available for issue or restoration.



NEW CLASSES – INSTALL AND MAINTAIN

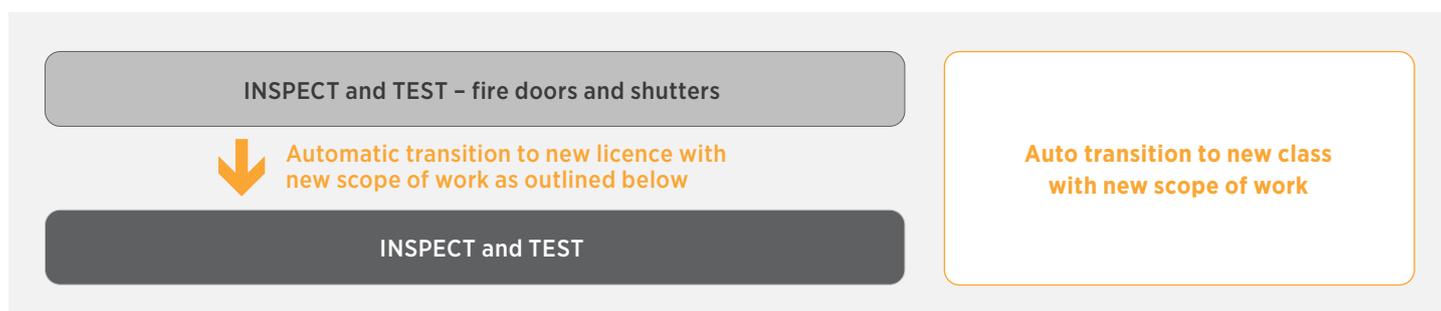
Three new 'install and maintain' classes have been added to the passive stream:

- install and maintain—fire doors and fire shutters
- install and maintain—fire collars, fire-rated penetrations and fire-rated joint sealing
- install and maintain—fire and smoke walls and fire-rated ceilings.

For more information on these new classes, see the [passive stream licences factsheet](#).

TRANSITIONING TO NEW CLASSES – INSPECT AND TEST – FIRE DOORS AND FIRE SHUTTERS

The scope of work for the 'inspect and test' class for fire doors and shutters will continue automatically to the new 'inspect and test' class.

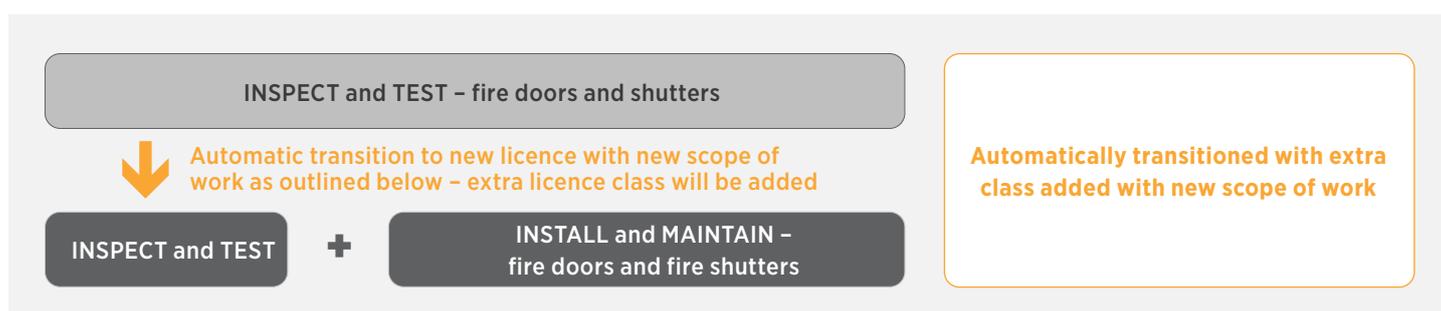


Changes to scope of work – INSPECT and TEST

The new scope of work provides for inspect and test of:

- fire doors
- fire shutters
- fire dampers
- fire collars
- fire-rated penetrations
- fire-rated joint sealing
- fire and smoke walls
- fire-rated ceilings.

Contractor licensees who held the 'fire equipment - passive (fire doors and fire shutters) restricted to carrying out certain work' licence class on 31 December 2008 will transition to the install and maintain – fire doors and shutters in addition to the above inspect and test class as shown below.



BUILDER AND OTHER TRADE CONTRACTORS PERFORMING FIRE PROTECTION WORK

Builders

- The scope of work for builder licence classes expressly excludes personally carrying out fire protection work.
- To enable builders to adjust to the changes, the scope of work for builder licence classes have been amended to authorise the newly regulated passive fire protection work until 2 May 2025.
- From 3 May 2025 builders must hold an additional licence class to personally carry out this work.
- This temporary extension of builder scopes of work is limited to the installation and maintenance of fire and smoke walls, fire collars, fire-rated penetrations and fire-rated joint seals which will become fire protection work from 1 May 2021. It will not alter the requirement for builders to hold a separate class to perform work that is currently fire protection work (e.g. installation of a fire door).

Trade contractors

- Licensees who hold a trade contractor's licence class with a scope of work that expressly includes newly regulated passive fire protection work will not be affected and may continue to carry out their scope of work without an additional licence class.

Workers

- New workers require a licence for fire protection work from 1 May 2021 regardless of the value of work.
- Existing workers have extended time to be licensed – a person who currently performs newly regulated passive fire protection work for a licensed contractor may continue to do so until 1 May 2025 – after which time they will need to be licensed or have an application lodged and pending determination.
- The current licensing exemption in Schedule 4 of the [QBCC Regulation](#) has not been amended – this means employees who hold a prescribed carpentry qualification and currently install and maintain fire doors or shutters without a licence, may continue to do so for an appropriately licensed QBCC contractor.
- No change for existing fire protection work: The licensing requirements for work that is currently regulated fire protection work remain unchanged. Similarly, current worker licensing exemptions in Schedule 4 of the QBCC Regulation have not been amended. For example, all persons, including workers, who install or maintain fire doors and shutters must continue to be licensed, unless they are worker that a Schedule 4 exemption applies.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO EXISTING LICENCES

Existing licence class			New licence class	Change for licensee	Changes to scope of work	Upskill required
Certify	Fire and smoke walls and ceilings – certify	→	n/a	Continuing class	X	n/a
	Fire doors and shutters – certify	→	n/a	Continuing class	X	n/a
	New licence class		Passive stream – certify	n/a	n/a	n/a
Certify, install and maintain	Fire collars, penetrations and joint sealing	→	n/a	Continuing class	X	X
Install and maintain	New licence class		Passive stream – install and maintain – fire collars, fire-rated penetrations and fire-rated joint sealing	n/a	n/a	n/a
	New licence class		Passive stream – install and maintain – fire and smoke walls and fire-rated ceilings	n/a	n/a	n/a
	New licence class		Passive stream – install and maintain – fire doors and shutters	n/a unless held relevant class on 31/12/2008 see below	n/a	n/a
Inspect and test	Fire doors and shutters	→	Passive stream – inspect and test If held on 31/12/2008, will move to passive stream – inspect and test + install and maintain – fire doors and fire shutters	Automatic transition	✓	X

Class continues – no changes to scope of work

Auto transition to new class with new scope of work